

border. It's interesting that, in the last Presidential campaign, neither candidate, in all of that talk, ever said anything about the border—our border, the second front.

It is time to reinforce the border with the National Guard, the military. If the Mexican Government is going to have the courage to have the military on the border to keep the drug cartels from crossing into our country, we ought to have the courage to have the border secured with our military to protect us and to squeeze those drug cartels dry. Send the military down there, and teach the drug cartels they will not have it their way, Mr. Speaker.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE BIRTHRIGHT OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Congressmen POE raises some very good points. One of the major reasons we should be renegotiating NAFTA is to deal with many of the consequences of that trade agreement which was sold as a nirvana for the continent, and there are so many consequences that are harmful to people in this country and to the other two trading partners. So I was very interested in his remarks.

I came down to the floor tonight to talk about liberty. When our Republic was founded, Patrick Henry courageously implored, "Give me liberty or give me death." He put his priority on sacrifice for liberty as the fundamental building block of our Republic, a moral calling of the highest order.

Similarly, as immigrants from far off lands flock to America's shores, they still journey through New York Harbor and read the timeless words at the base of the Statue of Liberty, penned by poet Emma Lazarus, that recall our primary founding moral value: "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Freedom is not only what this Nation offers to all who come here legally, but it is the cornerstone upon which our founders built this Nation. America today is navigating a slippery slope that is a departure from our birthright, our Nation's very reason for being. When freedom becomes subjugated to financial dependence on undemocratic regimes or marketplace conveniences, surely we risk losing our way. Those around the world can become disillusioned with our Nation's very reason for being.

Thomas Jefferson stated, "Can liberties of a nation be sure, when we re-

move their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people, that these liberties are a gift from God?" He clearly means we should not take the abundance of our Nation in whatever form and squander it or take it for granted.

I become concerned myself when pecuniary interests trump human rights. With China's now becoming the chief holder of U.S. Treasury debt, one must ask, "What comes first, liberty or bondage?"

Whether it is human freedom in China or repressive theocracies across the Middle East or dictatorships in Africa, Asia or Latin America, at what point does our growing financial dependence sully America's birthright, which is liberty first, last and always?

I stand here, amazed, that yet again the wise Thomas Jefferson issued, for posterity, a warning as follows: "If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of currency first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around them will deprive the people of all property until their children wake up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered." Imagine how many years ago he said that.

My friends, my dear colleagues and my fellow citizens, we must take a strong and devout look at where we are and how we got here. Our financial dependence on foreign regimes has compromised our very birthright. It was with sadness that I watched our able Secretary of State dance on eggshells on her recent trip to Beijing. It is Lady Liberty that must inspire us to recapture our freedom for our own posterity.

Surely, Thomas Jefferson would like that.

SUE AND CHUCK COBB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and the work of Ambassadors Sue and Chuck Cobb for what they have achieved in the life that they have made together. The Cobbs have set a new standard for the great American family as leaders in business, as public servants and as loving parents.

Ambassador Chuck Cobb is an alumnus of Stanford Business School. The greatest prize that he took from Stanford was not the MBA that he earned there; it was Sue, his wonderful and future wife. Ambassador Chuck Cobb's professional life is as successful as it has been diversified. As a businessman, he has served on the borders of nine publicly traded companies as well as numerous private ones. More than 30 master plan communities and even entire towns have been developed under Chuck's leadership. As a public servant, he rose through the ranks of the Department of Commerce where he served as Undersecretary and then as

assistant Secretary for President Ronald Reagan. He saw the fruition of his labor with his appointment to the position of Ambassador to Iceland for President George H.W. Bush. The people of Iceland graciously rewarded his work as an ambassador with their highest honor, the Falcon Grand Cross Star.

Ambassador Sue Cobb's journey from Stanford to the position of ambassador was no less exciting. While leading several nonprofits and law firms, she attempted to be the first woman from the United States to climb Mt. Everest, and later wrote the book "The Edge of Everest: A Woman Challenges the Mountain." Following her service as chairman of the Federal Reserve of Miami, Sue Cobb was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Jamaica where she served to improve health care, law enforcement and environmental management practices. Sue's work as ambassador was so acknowledged as excellent that our Nation's finest diplomats are honored with the Sue M. Cobb Exemplary Diplomatic Service Award. During her tenure in Jamaica, Ambassador Sue Cobb coordinated the relief efforts to help Jamaica's people after it was ravaged by Hurricane Ivan.

Ambassador Chuck was the cochairman of the committee that secured \$9 billion in Federal funds to rebuild my community, South Florida, after Hurricane Andrew.

In addition to their exemplary work in both government and private enterprise, Chuck and Sue have made a home together and have filled it with love for more than five decades. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, they will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They have raised two sons, who are distinguished and remarkable people. Christian is an architect with an MBA from Harvard, and Tobin is an investment banker who earned his MBA from NYU. They have blessed the Cobb family with seven beautiful grandchildren.

It is obvious that there is much that we can learn from the lives of the Ambassadors Cobb, but if we could glean a single lesson from the half century that they have spent together, Mr. Speaker, it would be how unbelievably far a man and a woman can go when the faith they have in each other is as unwavering as it is so clearly shown in Ambassadors Sue and Chuck Cobb.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.